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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for building a search query in a data
5   processing system having a graphical user interface,
comprising the steps of:
        responsive to user input, dropping a graphical
component representing a first system object onto a
graphical component representing a query function;
10   presenting a set of attributes of the first system
object; and
        responsive to user selection, creating a search
query from the selected set of attributes.

15   2.   The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising
the step of using the search query to assemble a set of
system objects having attributes similar to the selected
set of attributes.

20   3.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the
subsystem attribute is a graphical user interface (GUI)
subsystem attribute.

4.   The method as recited in claim 2, further comprising
25   the step of defining a search scope for assembling the
set of system objects.

5.   The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the first
system object represents the data processing system in a
30   distributed computing environment.

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6.   A system, comprising:

a bus system

an input device connected to the bus system;

a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the

5 memory includes a set of instructions; and

a processing unit connected to the bus system,
wherein the processing unit, responsive to user input
from the input device, executes the set of instructions
to drop a graphical component representing a first system

10 object onto a graphical component representing a query
function, the processing unit presents a set of
attributes of the first system object, and responsive to
user selection from the input device, the processing unit
creates a search query from the selected set of

15 attributes.

7.   A system for building a search query in a data
processing system having a graphical user interface,
comprising:

20   dropping means, responsive to user input, for
dropping a graphical component representing a first
system object onto a graphical component representing a
query function;

presenting means for presenting a set of attributes

25 of the first system object; and

creating means, responsive to user selection, for
creating a search query from the selected set of
attributes.

30 8.   The system as recited in claim 7, further comprising
using means for using the search query to assemble a set

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of system objects having attributes similar to the
selected set of attributes.

9.   The system as recited in claim 7, wherein the
5   subsystem attribute is a graphical user interface (GUI)
subsystem attribute.

10.   The system as recited in claim 8, further comprising
defining means for defining a search scope for assembling
10   the set of system objects.

11.   The system as recited in claim 7, wherein the first
system object represents the data processing system in a
distributed computing environment.
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12.   A computer program product in a computer readable
medium for building a search query in a data processing
system having a graphical user interface, comprising:
        instructions, responsive to user input, for dropping
20   a graphical component representing a first system object
onto a graphical component representing a query function;
        instructions for presenting a set of attributes of
the first system object; and
        instructions, responsive to user selection, for
25   creating a search query from the selected set of
attributes.

13.   The computer program product as recited in claim 12,
further comprising instructions for using the search
30   query to assemble a set of system objects having
attributes similar to the selected set of attributes.

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14. The computer program product as recited in claim 12, wherein the subsystem attribute is a graphical user interface (GUI) subsystem attribute.

5   15. The computer program product as recited in claim 13, further comprising instructions for defining a search scope for assembling the set of system objects.

16. The computer program product as recited in claim 12, 10   wherein the first system object represents the data processing system in a distributed computing environment.